

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 19, of the specification as follows:

Although apoferritin was used as a protein in this embodiment, any protein constituted from a single subunit or any protein constituted from multiple subunits may be used ~~in stead~~ instead of apoferritin as long as the protein has a cavity part. Further, the protein is not limited to one with a cavity part having a spherical form, but may be any one with a cavity part having a rod shape, a ring shape or the like. For example, Dps protein, viral protein, a heat shock protein or the like may be used. When Dps protein (a spherical shell-like protein having the diameter of 9 nm, and having a holding part therein with the diameter of 4 nm) is used, nanoparticles having the diameter of 4 nm can be produced. Examples of the viral protein include for example, CPMV, CCMV, HSV, Rotavirus, Reovirus, LA-1, Polyoma, CaMV, HPV, Ross River, SpV-4, φX174, FHV, HRV-14, Polio and the like. Preferably, a viral protein such as CPMV or CCMV may be used. According to the method of this embodiment, formation of nanoparticles are rendered in compliance with the shape and size of the cavity part of the protein used. Nanoparticle herein refers to a particle having a major axis of 50 nm or less, and having the size at least allowing for stable presence as a particle. An exemplary nanoparticle corresponds to a particle having a major axis of 1 nm to 50 nm.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1, of the specification as follows:

When nanoparticles composed of a chromium compound are produced, a chromium salt solution is mixed in the reaction solution ~~in stead~~ instead of the nickel salt solution used in this embodiment. Other conditions are as set forth in this embodiment. When nanoparticles composed of a copper compound are produced, a copper salt solution is mixed in the reaction solution ~~in stead~~ instead of the nickel salt solution used in this embodiment. Other conditions are as set forth in this embodiment.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 18, of the specification as follows:

On the other hand, results obtained by cases in which conditions employed were exactly the same except that nitrogen bubbled water and oxygen bubbled water were used instead instead of the aforementioned carbon dioxide-bubbled water are shown in Table 6 and Table 7, respectively. Table 6 presents the results when nitrogen bubbled water was used, whilst Table 7 presents the results obtained when oxygen bubbled water was used.